

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 10-15 and 17 have been amended to clarify and emphasize the features of the claimed invention. As noted in the previous response, support for the features recited in claims 10-17 is provided in the original claims and the specification on page 4, lines 16-27.

Claims 10-17 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Shoki et al. (US 6,087,986). The Applicant respectfully traverses.

Amended independent claims 10 and 17 recite, *inter alia*, the features of estimating a direction of a second communicating party, to which a directivity pattern has not been formed, from a null in a directivity pattern that has formed toward a first communicating party, and generating a directivity pattern toward the second communicating party according to the estimation result of the direction of the second communicating party. The invention may provide an advantage of overcoming a problem where a signal from a communicating party, to which a directivity pattern has not yet formed, presents a low reception SIR and a general direction estimation is difficult. In this circumstance,

the invention enables a highly suitable directivity pattern to be generated toward such a communicating party.

Shoki in no way teaches or suggests the above-noted features of the present claimed invention of estimating a direction of a second communicating party, to which no directivity pattern has been formed thereto, from a null in a directivity pattern that has formed toward a first communicating party.

Instead, Shoki merely discloses a general directivity generation technique in which MUSIC and ESPRIT methods are employed to carry out arrival direction estimation. See, col. 7, lines 34-48.

Further, in the Shoki technique, a plurality of directivity patterns are generated simultaneously in parallel. In contrast, the present claimed invention generates the directivity pattern toward the second communicating party utilizing the directivity pattern that has formed toward the first communicating party. The present claimed invention thus differs from Shoki in generating plural directivity patterns (i.e., the directivity pattern toward the first communicating party and the directivity pattern toward the second communicating party) at different timings.

In summary, Shoki merely discloses general directivity generation, in accordance with the prior art described in the

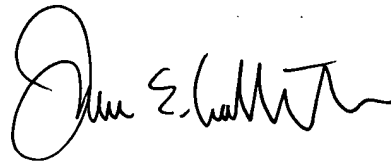
background section of this application. However, Shoki completely fails to teach or suggest the subject matter of the present claims.

Thus, it is submitted that claim 10, claims 11-15 dependent therefrom, and claim 17 are allowable over the teachings of Shoki.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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